PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11) Publication number: 11125397 A

(43) Date of publication of application: 11 . 05 . 99

(51) Int. CI

F17C 9/02

(21) Application number: 09289898

(22) Date of filing: 22 . 10 . 97

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(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To simplify the structure and to facilitate maintenance by providing a heat exchanger mounted to a water tank, a seawater feed piping for feeding seawater to the water tank; a seawater discharge means for discharging the seawater in the water tank; and a liquid level maintaining means for maintaining constant the liquid level of the seawater in the water tank.

SOLUTION: Seawater is pumped up by a seawater pump to a water tank 17 through seawater feed piping 20. The seawater is passed through plural heat exchangers 18 to supply heat to the heat exchangers 18 and is returned to the sea through a seawater return piping 21. A level gauge 22 always measures the liquid level of seawater in the water tank 17. When the liquid level lowers below the preset value, the opening of a flow rate regulating valve 19 is slightly closed. When the liquid level rises higher than the preset value, the opening of the flow regulating valve 19 is slightly opened. Accordingly, the quantity of seawater in the water tank 17 can be kept constant regardless of the quantity of seawater flowing into the water tank 17 through the seawater supply

piping 20.

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